

Community Events

DUI checkpoints

27th Security Forces will conduct DUI checkpoints tonight from 10:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m., and Dec. 31 from 11:30 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. on Cannon.

Law enforcement officers throughout New Mexico will also be out in force to remove drunk drivers from the road during the holiday season.

Last 2006 Mach Meter

This is the last issue of the year for the Mach Meter. The first issue for 2007 is Jan. 12.

Events of interest can still be submitted during the two-week break to be placed on the Commanders Access Channel on a space-available basis.

For more information, call 784-4211.

Straight Talk

For current information about the base status during inclement weather, disasters and emergencies call the Straight Talk Line at 784-4213.

Resume' Basics

Resume Basics is from 9 to 11 a.m. on Jan. 4 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

The class offers essential information on writing a resume' and cover letter.

For more information, call 784-4228.

Dr. King breakfast

A breakfast commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday starts at 8 a.m. Jan. 12 at the base chapel.

Guest speaker is Pastor Maurice Monson, associate pastor at the Faith Christian Family Church. The menu includes scrambled eggs, bacon, hash browns, biscuits and gravy, orange juice, hot tea and water for \$6.

Reservation deadline is Jan. 10. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Paula Pasco at 784-6592.

Right Start

Right Start is from 7:30 a.m. to noon on Jan. 17 at the Landing.

All newly arrived Airmen, except for those at the First Term Airmen Center must attend.

For more information, call 784-4228.

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MACH METER

Vol. 51, No. 50

Cannon Air Force Base, N.M.

Dec. 22, 2006



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS RANDI RICKARDS

Saluting a hero

Lt. Col. Stephen Wood, 27th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, and members of the 27th Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Flight, render honors for Capt. Kermit Evans during memorial services Dec. 15 at the base chapel. Captain Evans was killed in Iraq Dec. 3 when the helicopter he was flying in was forced to make an emergency landing. For more photos on the memorial service, see page 2.

Letter to Airmen: Thanks to the great Air Force family

By Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force

Barb and I just returned from the AOR. Below is a special message from her:

*Dear Airmen,
I have just returned from an incredible trip to the AOR with my husband. I met many Airmen and family members from all across the Air Force. Every Airman was so impressive, dedicated and proud to serve our country. Thank you for all you do for our Air Force!*

Serving during this time of conflict, you have joined the elite group of courageous Americans who have defended our way of life in times of trouble. Your patriotism will shape the rest of your life. You are destined to become the future leaders of our communities, our Air Force, and America. Each of you is a hero!

You have handled the challenges thrown at you, as my husband says, in "adaptable and flexible" ways. You find creative solutions to solve problems everyday, whether it's aircraft repair, managing distribution of furniture for households, or streamlining vehicle registration. Work everywhere is faster and better thanks to you. And you are just as excited about quality of life improvements such as Balad Air Base's "Read for Your Child Program." Your pro-

fessionalism shows in all you do.

Throughout this past year, I met many of you at our CONUS and OCONUS bases. During my first travels to the Pacific, I witnessed firsthand your dedication to the mission in Guam, Korea, Japan and Hawaii. You are ready at a moment's notice to deploy and do what you have been trained to do.

Being so far away from home, whether at bases such as Kunsan, Misawa, Balad, Lakenheath, Ramstein, or Ali Al Salem, I am pleased to see you take advantage of the quality of life programs that the Air Force provides. The fitness centers and services areas are jam-packed with Airmen staying in shape, and planning and taking part in shows and activities that help make the time away from home bearable.

The talent and volunteerism of our Airmen is incredible. We have volunteer personal trainers to help their buddies, and artists who decorate walls of dorms, rocks in the desert and barriers around compounds. All of these great Airmen are donating their time and energy to make our bases better and improve quality of life in their communities.

We visited the hospitals in Balad, Landstuhl, and at Walter Reed. It is a privilege and inspiration to have had

■ See LETTER TO AIRMEN, Page 3



News

Cannon honors fallen warrior

Airmen, family gather to remember



A memorial created by Capt. Kermit Evans Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight was one of several remembrances made by fellow Airmen and friends for the services Dec. 15.



Col. Scott West, 27th Fighter Wing commander, presents Pernetha Evans with the Meritorious Service Medal awarded to her husband, Capt. Kermit Evans, who was killed in Iraq Dec. 3. The presentation was made during memorial services at the base chapel Dec. 15.



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS RANDI RICKARDS

Spouses from the 27th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight embroidered and presented to Captain Kermit Evans' family hankie at the memorial held for him Dec. 15 at the base chapel.



Capt. Kermit Evans' parents, Margaret and Charles, and his brother Kervin and Cannon Airmen watch a memorial video presentation of Capt. Evans during services at the base chapel Dec. 15.



News



PHOTO BY MAJ. NEIL OAKDEN

Teamwork

Cannon firefighters, from left to right, staff sergeants Davis Ramil and Jason Lenhart, Senior Airman Vincent Beausoliel and Mr. James Likins, work with security guard Jackie and augmentee Senior Airman Ashley Jamison to treat Airman 1st Class Sarah Hill, a simulated casualty. The training was part of Cannon's anti-terrorism and force protection exercise conducted Dec. 7.

LETTER TO AIRMEN*Continued from Page 1*

the honor to hold the hand of our wounded servicemen and women from all of the services. Each of you are in our thoughts and prayers everyday! We will certainly never forget what has happened to you and we are committed to helping each of you come back strong. The doctors, nurses and technicians are the cream of the crop. Their expertise, saving so many lives, is the silver lining to this conflict. It truly is the "Miracle of Iraq and Afghanistan."

At those bases where families accompany you, I met your wonderful spouses. Your families are so supportive and understanding. They truly make a difference to you and our Air Force. They are the bedrock upon which the Air Force is built. Their continued dedication to our Airmen is incredible. There are so many programs they facilitate, such as making holiday cookies and providing dinners for spouses of deployed Airmen. They always have your best interests at heart.

I have met your children and they blow me away! They are so proud of their moms and dads. From the darling babies and toddlers in the Child Development Center to the poised, bright middle schoolers who showed me around their schools - you can be very, very proud of them. Our future will be safe in their hands.

As this year draws to a close and we look to a new year, I am truly honored to have had a chance to meet so many of you. You have left an indelible mark on my heart and I will keep you there always. Thank you for serving in our Air Force and protecting this great Nation of ours. Wherever your path in life leads you, my husband and I wish the very best to you and your families. Be safe this holiday season - we want you back!

*Very sincerely yours,
Barbara Wynne*

Again, Barb and I wish you and yours the very best this Holiday Season

New legislation facilitates Total Force*Courtesy Air Force Print News*

WASHINGTON – When President George W. Bush signed the 2007 National Defense Authorization Act into law Oct. 17, important clarifications were made regarding Title 10 and 32, the laws governing the legal distinctions between the armed forces of the United States and the armed forces of the National Guard and Reserve.

With the president's authorization of the proposed amendments to Title 10 and Title 32, he removed some of the critical roadblocks to the Air Force's organizational construct of integrating active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve component assets to produce a smaller, more capable and more affordable Total Force.

"The reality of the post-9/11 21st century has presented the Air Force with a situation where mission requirements have increased in support of overseas engagements and homeland defense responsibilities," said Capt. Michaela Eggers, Total Force Integration Advocacy public affairs officer at the Pentagon. "The capabilities represented in the active force, ANG and AFRC as a whole need to be maximized to meet the requirements put forth by the combatant commanders."

The Air Force is transforming its fighting force in an effort to guarantee that it will continue to dominate air, space and cyberspace now and into the future. The result will be a fighting force with fewer

assets than it presently possesses, requiring the Total Force components to work more closely to use their combined skills on a smaller number of platforms.

"During time of war or national emergency, these forces can be activated under Title 10 where they are under the authority of the secretary of the Air Force," said Captain Eggers.

Legislation in the 2007 NDAA permits the Guard and Reserve to train all components, foreign military, Department of Defense contractors, and DOD civilians as long as it doesn't interfere with their primary duties. All said, the legislation allows active, Guard, and Reserve Airmen to support operations or missions that are to be performed by a joint forces unit.

"Warfare is changing and the Air Force must ensure that it is structured to meet the emerging threats of the future," said Captain Eggers. "As new technologies, greater efficiencies and increased Total Force leverage are created, the way we do business must also be re-evaluated."

Throughout the Total Force evolution, the Air Force will continue to care for its Airmen, focus on winning the War on Terror, and recapitalize and modernize to ensure that it remains capable of meeting emerging threats and maintains air, space, and cyberspace superiority, Captain Eggers said.



COMMENTARY

Remember safety for children during the holidays

By Staff Sgt. Julane. Bentley
27th Fighter Wing Safety

It's that festive time of year again in which we're all caught up in the excitement of the holiday decorations, cheerful music and spending time with family and friends.

We must, however, remain diligent when it comes to ensuring our family is safe to enjoy this joyful time of year, especially our children. Children typically don't know how to keep themselves safe, but parents or caregivers must. To keep the holiday season a merry one, the 27th Fighter Wing Safety Office provides these safety tips for the Cannon family.

In homes with small children, take special care to avoid sharp or breakable decorations,

keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children who could swallow or inhale small pieces, and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or nonlead-ed metals. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested by children. Avoid placing breakable tree ornaments or ones with small, detachable parts on lower branches where small children or pets can reach them. If you like hanging popcorn chains or candy canes on your tree try to hang out of the reach of little hands.

Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills and interest level of the intended child. Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards for younger children.

Before buying a toy or allowing your child to play with a toy that they have received as a gift, read the instructions carefully. Children under the age of 3 put everything in their mouths, which can cause a potential choking hazard.

Toys for children 3 and under shouldn't be or have parts that are less than 1 1/4 inches in diameter and 2 1/4 inches long. For children ages three-five avoid toys that are constructed with thin, brittle plastic that might easily break into small pieces or leave jagged edges.

Look for household art materials, including crayons and paint sets, marked with the Approved Product (AP) seal from Arts and Creative Materials Institute (ACMI). You may find some materials that are

labeled stating that it conforms to ASTM D-4236 American Society for Testing and Materials. Both of these mean the product has been reviewed by a toxicologist and, if necessary, labeled with cautionary information. Children under age 8 can choke or suffocate on un-inflated or broken balloons. Remove strings and ribbons from toys before giving them to young children. Watch for pull toys with strings that are more than 12 inches in length. They could be a strangulation hazard for babies.

There are concerns about recent toy recalls. The Consumer Product Safety Commission recalled 3.8 million Mega Brands Magnetix building sets when the magnets started falling off and some were swallowed.

Last month, Mattel recalled more than 4 million Polly Pocket play sets, dolls with small magnets in their hands, feet, clothing and other accessories. The U.S. Public Interest Research Group for the first time included magnets on its annual holiday warning about dangerous toys.

Small children may think that holiday plants look good enough to eat, but many of them can cause severe stomach problems. Holiday plants to watch out for include: mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry, amaryllis and poinsettias. Keep these plants out of reach.

In case of emergency, have the Poison Hotline Number posted next to the phone – (800)-222-1222.

LETTER

Thanks from Iraq

Hello everyone!

We received the boxes of toys and gifts you sent for the Iraqi children during the 40 Days of Kindness program here.

I cannot express enough how much love you have given to these unfortunate children who are in need of basic necessities. So far, more than 400 children have received gifts.

We coordinated with the Army who handed out gifts to children in four communities. With all your gifts for this project, we will reach out to more children than we had expected.

Again, thank you very much for helping these children with love and kindness, knowing there is hope at the end of the rainbow.

Tech. Sgt. David Collins
332 EAMXS/524 EAMU
Balad Air Base, Iraq

By Maj. Dave Dutcher
18th Logistics Readiness Squadron

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan (AFPN)
—Whether at home supporting the largest combat-coded wing in the Air Force or deployed in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, Airmen from every squadron continue to excel.

Are you ready?

You've got your desert combat uniforms and are awaiting your orders, but does that truly make you ready? Probably not. To truly be primed and ready you need to take care of three requirements:

1. Prepare yourself to deploy: Read the reporting instructions for the area to which you are deploying. Know what bags you need to deploy with and which ones will be pre-positioned and awaiting pick-up when you arrive in the AOR.

2. Prepare your squadron for your deployment: Every one of you is a valuable member of your squadron and will be missed greatly. The hole left by your deployment can result in mission degradation in your flight if you haven't prepared those around you for your impending deployment.

3. Prepare your family for your deployment: Have you gone over to legal and updated your will? Do you need a power of attorney accomplished before you leave? Is your SGLI current/accurate? Do you have a friend or neighbor to help out your dependents while you're gone?

And finally, make sure that you have the family deployment seminar circled on your calendar. Bring your family to this important seminar so that both you and they can best prepare for your absence.

MACH METER

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News articles, local notes and other items for the **MACH METER** should be brought to the 27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office, 110 E Sextant Ave. Suite 1099, or e-mailed to the Mach Meter at

27fwmachmeter@cannon.af.mil.

All submissions will be considered for publication based on news value and timeliness.

Every article and photograph will be edited for accuracy, clarity and brevity, conformance with the Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual and with Air Force Instruction 35-101. Coverage of upcoming events should be arranged in advance by calling the Public Affairs office at 784-4131.

If you have a suggestion you would like to make, or a kudo you'd like to give, call the **ACTION LINE at 784-2722** — If you have a problem you need resolved, call the responsible agency first so they can provide better service to everyone promptly.

Deadline for submitting articles is noon Thursday the week prior to publication. Deadline for free classified advertisements is noon the Tuesday prior to publication.

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News

Air Force leaders advocate Voluntary Protection Program

By Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein
Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) – Air Force leaders are advocating an enhanced safety program that focuses on developing and caring for the safety of Airmen, civilians and their families.

The Voluntary Protection Program originates from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and focuses on incorporating the Air Force's culture of safety in the air, on the ground, at work, at home and at play.

"This is an integral part of our everyday operations, especially as we lean our forces," said Maj. Gen. Stanley Gorenc, chief of Air Force Safety here and Air Force Safety Center commander at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. "We need to make sure our productivity is as strong as ever, if not better, and VPP helps enhance that, and is fundamental to the way we do business."

In June 2003, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld established an accident reduction effort, charging all services to reduce preventable mishaps by 50 percent. In 2005, he challenged the services again with a 75 percent reduction. To meet these goals, the Navy and Army, along with the Air Force, embraced VPP. The program sets performance-based criteria for a managed safety and health system. Training is provided to introduce VPP into workcenters, and emphasizes accountability at all levels.

William Anderson, assistant secretary of the Air Force for Installation, Environment and Logistics, said that when an Airmen or Air Force civilian is injured, it affects everything from quality of life to the mission.

"VPP is really a quality-of-life issue," he said. "We want all of our Air Force members to return home in the same shape as when they arrived at work. We care about our people and want to keep them safe, healthy and productive."

Workers sidelined by preventable injuries and illnesses also cost the Air Force money, he said.

"In our civilian workforce alone, we experienced more than 2,200 injuries or illnesses last year that corresponded to 33,000 lost workdays," he said. "That's comparable to having 132 civilian full-time equivalents on the payroll who couldn't show up for work because of preventable workplace mishaps."

Mr. William Anderson

"Everyone, from the top leadership at the Pentagon to the Airmen on the base flightline, has a role in this program. If an Airman sees something wrong in his workcenter, or comes up with a safer way to do things, we want him to come forward and bring it to his leadership's attention.

— Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installation and Logistics

Nine Air Force installations were established this year as a baseline for service-wide implementation: Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio; Altus AFB, Okla.; Holloman AFB, N.M.; Eielson AFB, Alaska; Los Angeles AFB, Calif.; Hanscom AFB, Mass.; Tinker AFB, Okla.; Hill AFB, Utah; and Robins AFB, Ga. The program will gradually expand to all major commands and bases.

Fiscal year 2006 was the best ever for aviation safety based upon a significant drop in mishaps and fatalities. However, ground safety, which includes workcenter and vehicle mishaps, requires a more concentrated effort to reduce its number of mishaps.

"Everyone, from the top leadership at the Pentagon to the Airmen on the base flightline, has a role in this program," said Mr. Anderson. "If an Airman sees something wrong in his workcenter, or comes up with a safer way to do things, we want him to come forward and bring it to his leadership's attention. This will increase our combat capability and help eliminate waste, reduce cost, strengthen value and get the job done better and more safely."

General Gorenc agreed everyone plays a part in the program.

"There are consequences with everything we do," he said. "Our goal is to educate people to recognize that and motivate and activate them to make the safest choice for themselves and their fellow Airmen. We need to include these concepts in all areas of our lives, on duty and off."



*Volunteering puts the
pieces of life together*



**For volunteer opportunities at
Cannon and the Clovis/Portales areas, call Tom
Campany at the Airman and Family Readiness
Center at 784-4228.**



SERVICES



784-2466

Mon-Thurs 5 am-2 am
Fri 5 am-11 pm
Sat-Sun 7 am-6 pm
Holiday Hours 9 am-6 pm



Fitness & Sports

Cannon's Biggest Loser

Coming in January!!!

Sign up by Jan 12

COURTESY GRAPHIC



Today

Conversational Japanese language skills – 11 a.m. to noon at the Cannon Library
Seafood Buffet – 11 a.m. at The Landing
DJ – 7 p.m. at the End Zone

Saturday

3 for 2 – 6:30 p.m. at Cannon Lanes

Sunday

NFL Football – 10 a.m. at the End Zone
Dart League – 6:30 p.m. at the End Zone

Monday

All 27th Services Squadron facilities are closed for the Christmas holiday.

Tuesday

Chef's Choice – 11 a.m. at The Landing

What's happening?

Conversational Spanish language skills – 11 a.m. to noon at the Cannon Library
Pool Tournament – 4 to 6 p.m. at the Portales Community Center
New Year's Poetry Recital – 5 p.m. at the Clovis Community Center

Wednesday

International Buffet – 11 a.m. at The Landing
Conversational Chinese language skills – 11 a.m. to noon at the Cannon Library
Foosball Tournament – 3 to 5 p.m. at the Portales Community Center
Chill-out Pictionary – 5 p.m. at the Clovis Community Center

Thursday

Conversational French language skills –

11 a.m. to noon at the Cannon Library
Chess Club Casual Play – 6 p.m. at the Central Community Center

Dec. 29

Seafood Buffet – 11 a.m. at The Landing
Conversational Japanese language skills – 11 a.m. to noon at the Cannon Library
Family Bowl-a-Rama – 6 p.m. at Cannon Lanes
DJ – 7 p.m. at the End Zone



COURTESY GRAPHIC



COMMUNITY EVENTS



PHOTO BY GREG ALLEN

Pet of the Week

This female cream-colored Chihuahua is available for adoption. She has a short smooth coat and a long tail. For more information, call the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 784-4228.

■ Continued from page 1

Heart Link

Spouses are invited to join Heart Link at the Airman and Family Readiness Center from 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Jan. 19.

Heart Link increases awareness of the Air Force mission, its customs, traditions and protocols and available resources and services. Lunch and child care are free.

For more information, call 784-4228.

Room at the Caprock Inn

The Caprock Inn has rooms available during the holiday season for visiting guests.

To make a reservation, call 784-2919.

College registration

Registration for the spring semester at Clovis Community College is under way. Online and on-campus registration continues through Jan. 22. To register online, go to www.clovis.edu/register.

For more information, call 769-4025.

Morale calls

Morale calls must go through the new automated "Morale Minder" system. Families making morale calls can call 784-4228 for a personal identification number.

Clinic upgrades

The plumbing, heating and air conditioning systems at the medical group are being upgraded. These upgrades are expected to last through June 2007. During this time, minor delays, detours around the most direct route to the clinic and construction noises may be experienced. Some restrooms may be temporarily out of service and temperatures indoors may be cooler or warmer than normal.



NEWS FEATURES

Airmen challenged to make better choices

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – "Work hard and play smart" may soon be a new mantra for Airmen after duty hours.

In February, the Air Force kicked off a new program titled "Culture of Responsible Choices." The program, called CoRC for short, is more of a change in mindset than an actual new formal program. It is a mindset where all Airmen and people in AF organizations are asked to rethink how they do business and conduct their lives to ensure their decisions lead to safe and healthy outcomes. Responsible choices are an integral part of Air Force culture, and CoRC emphasizes personal responsibility and accountability for decision-making and behavior on and off duty.

Air Force senior leaders would like Airmen to help each other make better choices in their leisure activities and personal lives, said Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force Lt. Gen. Arthur Lichte.

"We have Airmen who sometimes make poor decisions

and (engage in) high-risk behavior, which results in mission impairment and many other problems that impact good morale and discipline in the unit," he said. "With this program we call CoRC if you can think of it as a mindset of how people should be thinking when it comes to making risky behavior decisions -- we want individuals to make the right choice."

The Air Force-level CoRC program is cousin to a successful program at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo. called "0-0-1-3." That stands for "zero underage drinking, zero driving under the influence, one drink an hour, and never more than three drinks at an event."

The 0-0-1-3 program significantly reduced alcohol related incidents at F.E. Warren AFB, and Air Force senior leaders wanted to transplant that success throughout the service, but chose to broaden the scope of the program when doing so.

With CoRC, Air Force leaders hope to change the way Airmen think about the whole spectrum of issues, from drinking and drug use on the one hand to healthy fitness behav-

ior; sound financial management; vigorous suicide prevention; effective sexual assault response and prevention; and safe practices at work, at home, and on vacation. The idea is to help Airmen stay healthy, safe, and in uniform, General Lichte said.

"I want that 18 to 25 year old Airmen to be a 45-year-old chief (master sergeant) some day," he said. "But when you make bad choices, sometimes you are not going to get that opportunity. And the same for the young officers."

Implementation of the CoRC program involves, in part, having commanders use their services squadrons to create more opportunities for Airmen to engage in non-alcohol centered activities. In addition, some activities would be planned later at night, from 9:30 at night into the morning, for instance, times when young Airmen who stay up late on the weekend are looking for something to do.

"When you look at the base in particular, bases on Friday night may not have a lot to offer to that young Airman who is now pumped up and ready to go



GRAPHIC BY MIKE CARABAJAL

"Work hard, play smart may soon be a new mantra for Airmen after duty hours."

party," General Lichte said. "This CoRC kind of tries to give that individual Airman alternatives and other things to do."

Ideas could include mid-night basketball, late-night movies at the base theater or inter-installation video game competitions. Alcohol may or may not be part of an event, but if it is, it will not be the focus or the center of the event.

While an emphasis on finding alternatives to alcohol use plays a large part in the CoRC program, the program really is about helping Airmen make better decisions in all the things they do, said General Lichte.

"There are a lot of times

when you are young (you feel) you're going to live forever," he said. "You feel very strong, and (that) you can do anything, and nothing is going to harm you. Then all of the sudden you make a bad choice and find out you are not invincible."

What we want to do is make sure all our young Airmen understand that they can be hurt. And so we want to make sure we take care of them. It goes back to the wingman concept."

Airmen and commanders can find out more about the CoRC program at the program Web site: <http://www.afcrossroads.com/websites/corc.cfm>.

Military housing rates boosted 3.5 percent overall

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Servicemembers will receive an average 3.5 percent boost in their basic allowance for housing compensation benefit in 2007, a Defense Department officials said Dec. 18.

The planned BAH increase starting Jan. 1 works out to about \$300 million more than what was paid in 2006, officials said.

"The continued improvement in

housing allowances represents our commitment to the preservation of a compensation and benefit structure which will provide members with a suitable and secure standard of living that will sustain a trained, experienced and ready force in the future," said Cynthia Smith, a DOD spokesperson.

Officials said military housing allowances are computed according to three key criteria: median current market rent; average utilities to include electricity, heat and water/sewer costs; and average renter's

insurance.

BAH rates also are based on dwelling type and number of bedrooms in a given area and then calculated for each pay grade, both with and without family members.

For servicemembers with family members, average increases in the BAH are approximately \$44 per month. For example, a typical E-4 will receive about \$34 more in BAH than in 2006, while an E-8 will receive about \$42 more than this year.

The BAH rate system has built-in

protections to ensure that an individual servicemember in a given location won't see his or her BAH rate decrease. This provision assures members who have made long-term lease or contract commitments are not penalized if the area's housing costs decrease.

Some areas' housing costs have remained relatively stable, while others continue to rise. Most of the costliest housing in the United States with the highest BAH rates are clustered on or near the East and West coasts, and the state of Hawaii.



FEATURE

Serving through the season: A1C Amber Roaten

By Valerie Mullett
341st Space Wing Public Affairs Office

MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE, Mont. — Making sure security forces are properly armed and have sufficient ammunition to support their tour is what Airman 1st Class Amber Roaten will be tasked to do as one of the armorers on duty for the 341st Security Support Squadron Christmas day.

"I know I have an important job to do making sure law enforcement and security troops are ready to perform their duties," Airman Roaten said. "I hope to get home next year for the holidays because I haven't seen my parents in two years."

Home for Airmen Roaten is Paris, Tenn., where she graduated from Henry County High School in 2003 and then attended the University of Tennessee at Martin for one year. She has served on active-duty for a little more than two years, having arrived at Malmstrom after finishing basic training and technical school in April 2005.

Like Airmen in Iraq, Afghanistan, Ecuador, South Korea, other world hot spots and across the nation during the holiday season, Airman Roaten knows about sacrifice. Airmen are war fighters. They are highly trained, skilled and valued members of the interdependent force fighting the war on terror. They are always ready to do their job, no matter what day it is.

She has already made alternate plans for celebrating with her husband, John, and some friends.

"We have our own Christmas parties planned and will make the best out of being away from home," she said. "My husband and I will exchange gifts Christmas Eve and when I get home from work Christmas day."



PHOTO BY AIRMAN EMERALD RALSTON

Airman 1st Class Amber Roaten, an armorer with the 341st Security Support Squadron at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., accepts ammunition turned in by a security forces member after his shift Dec. 8.

She isn't sure what's in store while working Monday, but "I'm sure we'll think of something special to do."

Serving through the season: Airman Marilyn Torres

by Staff Sgt. Brandon Hoyt
Detachment 9, Air Force News Agency

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany — It's already on the schedule — Amn. Marilyn Torres will celebrate the holidays inside the 726th Air Mobility Squadron's supply warehouse, ensuring heavy aircraft assigned here are mission-ready.

Like many Airmen new to the Air Force, she'll also spend some time doing details, such as cleaning the floors. The supply warehouse, lined with rows of giant aircraft tires and towering shelves stocked with aircraft parts and supplies, is much too big for the standard broom. She uses a red shiny new Zamboni. It doesn't make up for working the holidays, but to Airman Torres, it's just another day.

"It's my job so the mission comes first," she said.

The heart of the supply mission is paramount to making sure the war fighter has what they need to fight the war on terrorism. It's a mission this 19-year-old supply apprentice understands.

"Without these parts, those planes can't get fixed. We need to issue them their parts, so they can get the planes fixed, so we can complete the mission. You can't fly without supply!"

It's a saying she takes seriously, as she coordinates directly with maintenance fresh off the raining Spangdahlem flightline, as she processes the multiple tags and paperwork that arrive with newly delivered parts, and while she cautiously learns how to use a forklift.

It's a lot to absorb for an Airman who has only been in the service eight months, but with Airman Torres' youthful energy, it's obvious she's already an asset to the force.

She exudes the same motivation she has with her job with her assignment.

"The fact that I'm [at Spangdahlem] is great! I mean I like Germany — I love it! It's the best opportunity I've got in my life. I know there's nothing better for me out there. The fact that I'm here for the holidays is no problem."

She's not currently serving in hot spots such as Iraq or Afghanistan, but



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. BRANDON HOYT

Airman Marilyn Torres stocks shelves filled with aircraft parts and supplies at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, Dec. 8. Shelving items is one of the final steps after processing of forms and input into a computer database. Her efforts ensure heavy aircraft assigned to the 726th Air Mobility Squadron are mission-ready.

forgoing a day off during the holidays is a sacrifice many Airmen like Airman Torres are prepared to make. Airman Torres is a "warfighter" no matter what day it is.



Unit Spotlights

2006 ACC AFMS Award winners representing ACC at the AF level

Capt. Arthur Miller

2006 Air Combat Command

Company Grade Psychologist of the Year

Capt. Tracy Markle

2006 Air Combat Command

Company Grade Social Worker of the Year

M.J. Anderson, Candice Weaver,

Tech. Sgt. Alonzo Cromwell, Felisha Glover

2006 Air Combat Command

Best Small Base Health Promotion Program

Capt. Adam Klemens

2006 Air Combat Command

Company Grade Optometrist of the Year

Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Randell

2006 Air Combat Command

Health Plan Management NCO of the Year

Tech. Sgt. Andrea Lee

2006 Air Combat Command

BG Sarah P. Wells Outstanding Aerospace

Medical Services NCO of the Year



Protestant

Sunday

Regular Sunday Services

Candlelight Christmas Eve, 7 p.m.

Dec. 31

Regular Sunday Services

New Year Watch Night, 10 p.m. to midnight

Catholic

Sunday

4th Sunday of Advent Mass, 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Family Mass, 5 p.m.

Christmas Solemn Mass, 10 p.m.

Monday

No services

Dec. 31

Feast of the Holy Family Mass, 10:30 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary Mass, 5 p.m.

Jan. 1

No services

At the Movies

The Cannon Theater is located on Torch and Ingram. Movie prices are \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children.

Stranger than Fiction

Today at 7 p.m.

Description: A comedy about a novelist who is struggling to complete her latest — and potentially finest — book. There's only one problem: she only has to find a way to kill off her main character, Harold Crick, and she'll be done. Little does she know that Harold Crick is inexplicably alive and well in the real world and suddenly aware of her words. Fiction and reality collide when the bewildered and resistant Harold hears what she has in mind, and realizes that he must find a way to change her — and his — ending.

PG-13 — disturbing images, sexuality, brief language and nudity — 113 min.

Happy Feet

Saturday at 4 p.m., and Sunday at 1 p.m.

Description: Set deep in Antarctica and into the land of Emperor Penguins, where each needs a heart song to attract a soul mate, a penguin is born who cannot sing. Our hero Mumble, son of Memphis and Norma Jean, is the worst singer in the world — however, as it happens, he is a brilliant tap dancer!

PG — mild peril, rude humor — 87 min.

Wear pajamas to the Sunday showing and get a free kids combo with an adult combo purchase.

Let's Go To Prison

Saturday at 7 p.m.

Description: Felon John Lyshitski has figured out the best way to get revenge on the now-dead judge who sent him to jail: watch the official's obnoxious son, Nelson Biederman IV, survive the clink. John strikes gold when Nelson is wrongly convicted of a crime and sent to the pen he used to call home. He gleefully gets sent back to become Nelson's cellmate and to ensure that his new buddy gets the "full treatment."

R — language, sexual content, some violence and drug material — 84 min.



THE LIGHTER SIDE



CARTOON BY 2ND LT. GEORGE TOBIAS



CARTOON BY W.C. POPE

SPORTS AND HEALTH

Foursome wins final 2006 golf tournament

By Dennis "Chris" Christensen
Whispering Winds Golf Course manager

The 2006 golf tournament season officially came to a close at the Whispering Winds Golf Course on Dec. 9.

Seventy-six golfers, the largest turn out of the year, participated in the three best low balls of four Christmas Special golf tournament.

Festivities kicked-off at 8 a.m. with a champagne breakfast and was followed by a 9 a.m. shot gun start tee time. The format for this event required each player to play their own ball and at the end of each hole the best three low balls of four (minus handicap) were used for score. The lowest team scores determined the winners.

Greg Hanks, Gary Lee, Don Regenhardt and Wayne Doyon won the tournament with a three low-ball total of 189. The team of Archie Broussard, Bob Villines, Dennis Lessard and Ray Baize took second place at 191. Third place went to Ron Smith, Sheila Smith, Larry Robinson and A. B. Jones with a score of 192.

Placing fourth was Mike Hatcher, Brad Goldsberry, Linda Goldsberry and Michael Pruitt, in at 196 and Dennis Mills, Josh Jacobs, E. J. Herd and Carroll Mason finished fifth at 197.

Larry Looney, Pete Wilt Sr., Josh Smith and Penny Smith and Chet Spear, Trinity Fowler, Bobby Powell and Anthony Hunter tied for sixth place at 201.

After a score card playoff, Looney's team took

sixth and Spears' team finished seventh.

Closest-to-the-pin contest winners were: Pete Wilt Jr., hole 3; Braden Taylor, hole 7; Bob Rogers, hole 11; Don Regenhardt, hole 15; and Jason Paulk on hole 17. Gift certificates were presented to all of the winners.

After the tournament, door prizes were drawn for with the grand prize being an annual green fee membership. Each tournament participant won a prize and the lucky winner of the annual membership was Josh Smith.

The next scheduled event at Whispering Winds will be the 2007 season opener on Jan. 13. The format will be a three-person dogfight.

For more information or to sign up, call the pro shop at 784-2800.

Cannon Lieutenant tries for Air Force soccer team

By Janet Taylor-Birkey
27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

To say soccer is Jeremiah Kirschman's life would not be far from the truth. Young "Miah", as he's known to his family, was only 3 years old when he kept showing up at his older brother's games. Jonathan was four years older and while the coach wasn't sold on the younger sibling playing, he made an exception.

Fast forward more than 20 years, and the young Miah is now 1st Lt. Jeremiah Kirschman, 27th Contracting Squadron, and has been invited to try out for the Air Force Soccer Team.

As honoring as it may be to be asked to try out, there is no guarantee of being picked for the team. With the try out list at 40 people, ranging from airman basic to lieutenant colonel, and only 18 being chosen for the AF team, competition is stiff.

The team of 18 will play a round robin, playing each of the other branches of the military twice. The best players of the four branches will then be picked for the Armed Forces Soccer Team which will compete in Brazil.

Lieutenant Kirschman is optimistic about his chances. "If you're in better shape, you can outlast your opponent," he said, adding

that the high altitude of Cannon gives athletes in this area an advantage over their opponents stationed at sea-level bases.

Lou Sagastume, USAF Men's Varsity Soccer Coach is a big fan of Lieutenant Kirschman's.

"Jeremiah is a true athlete, runs like a deer, plays with the ball like he was born with it and is very tenacious for his size," Mr. Sagastume said. "He always worked hard for us here [at the U.S. Air Force Academy] and became one of the leaders of the team his senior year."

Being in shape for the tryouts comes from a lot of running, conditioning and passing the ball with an Airman from his squadron. He has also participated in a soccer tournament in Albuquerque and helped coach the Eastern New Mexico University's men's soccer team.

Although optimistic and ready, the lieutenant also knows the reality of what it takes to be put out of the game. "All it takes is one mistake and your game could be over," he said.

While he hopes to make the team, Lieutenant Kirschman said trying out for the team is something he can check off of his list of accomplished dreams.

"I've always had a dream to play soccer and get paid for it."

December 31
New Year's Family Party
8 pm-2 am

\$20 per person 18 and older,
\$30 per couple,
\$8.50 per child 3 - 18,
FREE ages 2 and under*

Price includes snacks, all you can bowl,
shoe rental, party favors, breakfast.
Tickets are limited to first 96 tickets so
buy your ticket by December 23 (or price
increases \$5 per ticket).

Please drink responsibly

AIR FORCE SERVICES
BOWLING CANNON LANES

* Not eligible to win door prizes

COURTESY GRAPHIC



SPORTS SHORTS



Turn slip in to the Public Affairs office by 4:30 p.m. today. They are located in Bldg 600, suite 1099.

The participant who picks the most winners will win a free large one-topping pizza from the End Zone. The name will be announced next week.

Thursday Week 16 Schedule

Minnesota at Green Bay 6 p.m. NFL

Saturday

Kansas City at Oakland 6 p.m. NFL

Sunday

Chicago at Detroit 11 a.m. Fox

Tennessee at Buffalo 11 a.m. CBS

Carolina at Atlanta 11 a.m. Fox

Indianapolis at Houston 11 a.m. CBS

Tampa Bay at Cleveland 11 a.m. Fox

Baltimore at Pittsburgh 11 a.m. CBS

New England at Jacksonville 11 a.m. CBS

New Orleans at N.Y. Giants 11 a.m. Fox

Washington at St. Louis 11 a.m. Fox

Arizona at San Francisco 2 p.m. Fox

San Diego at Seattle 2:15 p.m. CBS

Cincinnati at Denver 2:15 p.m. CBS

Monday

Philadelphia at Dallas 3 p.m. NBC

N.Y. Jets at Miami 6:30 p.m. ESPN

Total Monday points (tie breaker) _____



Football Genie

Circle winners and turn into Public Affairs by 4:30 p.m. today.

Congratulations to last week's winner, Lt. Col. Ancel Yarbrough, 27th Fighter Wing Safety.

Name/Unit/Phone

Cannon Lanes 784-2280

Cannon Lanes will be closed Sunday and Monday in observance of the Christmas holiday.

3 for 2 — from 6:30 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, bowl three games for the price of two. Save \$2.25.

Family Bowl-a-Rama — From 6 to 9 p.m., Dec. 29, bowl two hours with up to six family members on a lane for \$12. Price includes shoes and a pitcher of soda.

Lanes assigned from 5 to 7 p.m.

Holiday Special — Bowl for \$1.25 all day long on Dec. 30.

New Year's Family Party — From 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., Dec. 31. \$20 per person ages 18 and older, \$30 per couple and \$8.50 for children 3 to 18. Price includes snacks, all-you-can-bowl, shoe rental, party favors and breakfast.

Price increases \$5 after Saturday.

Wild Wednesdays — On Wednesdays in December school-age children receive discounts from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Bowl four games and receive free shoes and a drink for \$5.

From 6 to 9 p.m., all ages bowl as many games as possible for \$5 per person.

Youth Center 784-2747

Youth activities for 'Tweens (ages 9-12) and Teens (ages 13-18)

Billiards and Indoor Soccer —

6:30 p.m. today for Teens.

Foosball Tournament — 6 p.m. Saturday for Teens.

Basketball Relays — 5 p.m. Tuesday for 'Tweens.

Skating — 6:30 p.m. Wednesday for Teens.

Basketball — 7 p.m. Thursday for Teens.

Match Run — 6:30 p.m. Dec. 29 for Teens.

Ping Pong Tournament — 1 p.m. Dec. 30 for 'Tweens.

Volleyball — 5 p.m. Dec. 30 for Teens.

Whispering Winds

Golf Course 784-2800

Senior Days — Senior golfers, 50 years and older, receive \$2 off daily green fees and 50 percent off electric cart rentals on Monday and Friday.

Retiree Wednesdays — Golfers with retired military ID card receive \$2 off daily green fees and 50 percent off electric cart rentals.

Member First discounts — 10 percent discount off annual, quarterly and monthly greens fees. Half-off club rentals. \$2 off cart rental for 18 holes.

End Zone 784-4283

Football Frenzy — Football Frenzy kicks off at 10 a.m. every Sunday. Don't forget to stop by for Monday Night Football at 5 p.m.